

House Republican Press Release

January 24, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Cafero's Bills Will Aid Norwalk Aquarium, Help Schools, Curb Alcohol to Minors



HARTFORD – Norwalk State Rep. Lawrence F. Cafero Jr. today released his legislative agenda that would mean \$2 million for the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium, create alternatives for in-school suspensions and crack down on those who supply alcohol to minors.

Cafero said that the legislation to aid the aquarium would be critical in funding an expansion of the facility. “The Norwalk Maritime Aquarium is a asset to the entire state and region. This is a vital investment that will benefit all of Connecticut,” Cafero said.

The proposal would be authorized by the state Bond Commission and be administered through the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Other bills Cafero submitted would:

- allow schools to establish in-school suspension programs where participating students’ records would be expunged following successful completion, providing that there are no subsequent suspensions;
- permit retired school administrators to fill temporary positions without losing their pension benefits. Cafero said that would also provide greater flexibility for schools that are strapped to find qualified candidates;
- impose a six-month suspension of a driver’s license for anyone convicted of providing alcohol to a minor;
- give local municipal employers authority to challenge binding arbitration awards even if they are not the designated legislative entity. Cafero said this proposal will close a loophole in the existing law. This bill was released earlier in the legislative session.

Cafero said that the proposals are balanced and reasonable and were put forth in response to issues that have been raised by constituents and local officials. “I believe these proposals will receive considerable support this session because they are common sense approaches that can make differences in peoples’ lives.”